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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **USAID Organized Training in Rural and Agricultural Finance**

On March 4-5, 2009 in the Conference Hall at Nur KM Company in Kyzyl-Kia the USAID-funded CAMFA II Project (Central Asia Microfinance Alliance) conducted a workshop on *Rural and Agricultural Finance*. The workshop, which began each day at 8:30 AM, was designed for people who directly or indirectly promote the development of agricultural production, processing, and agricultural finance in the region around Markaz *ayil okmotu*. Representatives of microfinance institutions, commercial banks, and agricultural processors engaged in the agricultural sector in the Kyrgyz Republic participated in this workshop.

Participants learnt about risk management approaches to rural and agricultural finance from the point of view of lenders and borrowers, using the perspective of value chain actors. Having considered rural financing in the light of these approaches, the participants were able to develop new practical methods for increasing access to finance that will stimulate rural and agricultural development as a whole.

The CAMFA II Project is a USAID-funded project implemented by ACDI/VOCA. With headquarters based in Bishkek, this three-year project (2006 – 2009) has the objective of increasing access to a broad range of financial services and deepening the outreach of micro and small businesses, especially in rural and isolated regions throughout Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The main areas for improvement to be addressed under this project are the enabling environment and promotion of innovative lending methodologies suitable for rural customers.

*This project is one of the many assistance projects supported by the American people through USAID in Central Asia. Since 1992 the American people through USAID have provided more than \$400 million in programs that support democratic institutions, health and education sectors, and economic growth in the Kyrgyz Republic.*